

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00628 250701Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 /084 W  
-----129632 251931Z /42

R 250611Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2247  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC HONOLULU  
SECDEF WASHDC  
UNCOMMAND REAR CP ZAMA JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0628

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, KS, AS  
SUBJECT: UN COMMAND REAR ECHELON/JAPAN

REF: STATE 14651 (DTG 190053Z JAN 78)

1. EMBASSY CANBERRA DID SOME INFORMAL CHECKING WITH SEVERAL SOURCES IN THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE GOA AGREEING TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL TO THE UNC REAR ECHELON THIS SUMMER, AT THE END OF THE BRITISH ASSIGNMENTS.
2. WE WERE TOLD THAT GOA INTER-AGENCY POSITION PAPERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED, AND ARE BEING READIED FOR SUBMISSION TO CABINET. IT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED THAT MINISTERIAL APPROVAL FOR THE GOA POSITION MIGHT HAVE  
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BEEN FORTHCOMING BY THE END OF JANUARY, BUT THE INTERVENING AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS AND ABSENCE FROM CANBERRA OF SENIOR MINISTERS DURING THE MID-SUMMER RECESS HERE HAD HELD THINGS UP; DFA NOW BELIEVES DECISION UNLIKELY BEFORE MID-FEBRUARY. WE HAVE EXPLAINED THAT THE BRITISH ARE PRESSING FOR AN ANSWER BY THE END OF JANUARY, BUT FRANKLY DO NOT BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT GOA WILL BE IN A

POSITION TO DECIDE UNTIL AT LEAST FEBRUARY 15.

3. WE ADHERED SCRUPULOUSLY TO THE LETTER OF THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL; WE DID NOT MAKE A PITCH FOR OR AGAINST ASSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL BUT CONFINED OURSELVES TO INFORMAL INQUIRY ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY ON THIS QUESTION. FROM NUANCES IN REPLIES FROM TWO DIFFERENT SOURCES IN DFA, WE GATHER THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT AT WORKING LEVELS IN GOA AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD TAKE PLACE. AUSTRALIAN DOD APPARENTLY SUPPORTS THE ASSIGNMENT. THE KOREA DESK OFFICER/NORTH ASIA BUREAU TENDS TO REGARD THE ASSIGNMENTS AS A FUNCTION OF AUSTRALIA'S EVOLVING POLICY TOWARD KOREA. WE ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT THE SECTION OF DFA HAS ADVISED AGAINST THE ASSIGNMENTS. WE WERE TOLD BY THE KOREA DESK OFFICER THAT HIS SECTION WAS NOT PERSUADED THAT THE ABSENCE OF OTHER-THAN-US TROOPS WOULD NECESSARILY RENDER THE UN-JAPAN SOFA NON-VIABLE; IN FACT, HIS SECTION DOESN'T BELIEVE THE ABSENCE OF ANY RPT ANY UNC TROOPS MEANS THE US-JAPAN SOFA IS NON-VIABLE; IT "HASN'T BEEN PERSUASIVELY EXPLAINED TO US THAT THE UNC REAR ECHELON SERVES ANY PARTICULARLY USEFUL FUNCTION WHICH NEEDS TO BE MAINTAINED"; AND THAT SECTION OF DFA WONDERES WHETHER THE US ATTACHES ANY REAL STRATEGIC POLICY SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE UNC REAR ECHELON. WAS THE US'G DESIRE THAT THE GOA CONTRI-

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BUTE PERSONNEL TO THE UNC REAR ECHELON PREDICATED UPON OUR INTENTION TO "REVITALIZE" THE UNC STRUCTURE?

4. THE US DESK IN DFA, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT OUR OFFERING THAT THE US DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE PRESENCE OF THIRD COUNTRY TROOPS IN THE UNC REAR ECHELON WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY A FUNCTION OF OUR NOT WISHING TO BE SEEN AS THE SOLE GUARANTOR OF THE PRESENT BALANCE OF POWER ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA; AND SECONDLY, THAT THE UNWILLINGNESS OF OTHERS TO SHARE -- HOWEVER MINIMALLY -- THE BURDENS OF THE UNC REAR ECHELON COULD BE PORTRAYED IN THE US AS GROUNDS FOR FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE USG TO CUT ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE KOREAN AREA. WE STRESSED THAT THE ABOVE WERE NOT ARGUMENTS BEING PUT ON INSTRUCTION FROM WASHINGTON, BUT RATHER WERE SIMPLY PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS. THE USA DESK OFFICER AGREED THAT AUSTRALIA'S DECISION TO ASSIGN OR NOT ASSIGN PERSONNEL TO THE UNC REAR ECHELON SHOULD BE A FUNCTION OF SOMETHING SIMPLY LARGER THAN AUSTRALIA'S EVOLVING RELATIONS WITH THE TWO KOREAS.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOA WILL PROBABLY BE RECEPTIVE

TO A PITCH FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL TO UNC REAR  
ECHELON. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT UNLESS WE MAKE SUCH  
A PITCH AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL IN CANBERRA, GOA  
MAY WELL DECIDE NOT TO ASSIGN PERSONNEL. ACCORDINGLY,  
IF DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO PUT FORTH A REQUEST TO THE  
GOA AT THIS END, PLEASE ADVISE, INCLUDING THE LINE OF  
ARGUMENT YOU WISH US TO USE.  
ALSTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780037-0864  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** UN COMMAND REAR ECHELON/JAPAN  
**TAGS:** MARR, KS, AS  
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